

Message Text

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11

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-20 NSC-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03 DRC-01

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P R 240900 OCT 73

FM AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1691

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE THESSALONIKI 665

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, SOCI, GR, TU

SUBJECT: CONVICTION OF SEVEN MOSLEMS FOR GAMBLING BY

KOMOTINI COURT - OCTOBER 22

REF: THESSALONIKI 230

1. CONSERVATIVE "ELLINIKOS VORRAS" OF OCTOBER 23 CARRIES BRIEF ANNOUNCEMENT ON CONVICTION OF SEVEN MOSLEMS PREVIOUS DAY BY KOMOTINI COURT OF MISDEMEANORS ON CHARGES OF GAMBLING. DEFENDANTS, WHO ARE "MOSLEM RESIDENTS" OF KOMOTINI, WERE ARRESTED OCTOBER 16 AT COFFEE SHOP PLAYING CARDS FOR MONEY. GROUP WAS SENTENCED TO FIFTEEN DAYS IMPRISONMENT AND 2,000 DRS. FINE APIECE. OWNER OF COFFEE SHOP D. TOFEAS (PROBABLY GREEK) WAS SENTENCED SEPARATELY TO TWO MONTHS IMPRISONMENT, 5,000 DRS. FINE, AND CLOSURE OF SHOP FOR TWENTY-DAY PERIOD.

2. BOTH THESSALONIKI MORNING PAPERS OF OCTOBER 24 REPORT THAT TURKISH AMBASSADOR IN ATHENS KAMURAN GURUN, ACCOMPANIED BY TURKISH CONGEN IN KOMOTINI ORHAN KULIN, TOURED XANTHI AREA PREVIOUS DAY.

3. COMMENT: TIMING WOULD SUGGEST THAT AMBASSADOR
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GURUN WAS PROBABLY IN KOMOTINI DAY OF TRIAL. ACCORDING TO
SOURCE AT GERMAN CONGEN, PRESENT CASE HAS POTENTIAL OF BECOMING
CAUSE CELEBRE SIMILAR TO CONVICTION OF MOSLEM EDITOR GALIB
HASSAN IN KOMOTINI LAST APRIL (REFTEL); HOWEVER, MUCH WILL
DEPEND ON HANDLING OF SITUATION BY AMBASSADOR AND TURKISH
OFFICIALS IN KOMOTINI.
JACKSON

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NNN

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Message Attributes

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Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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